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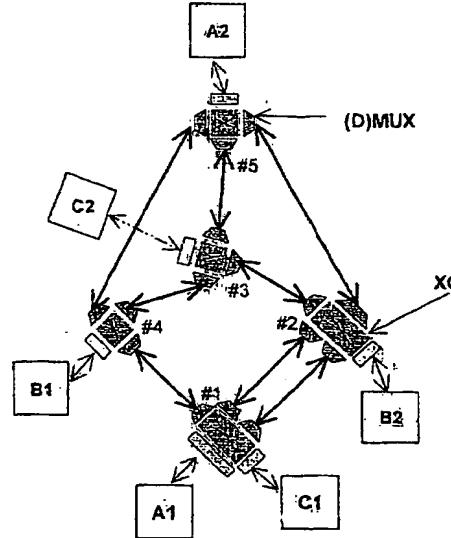
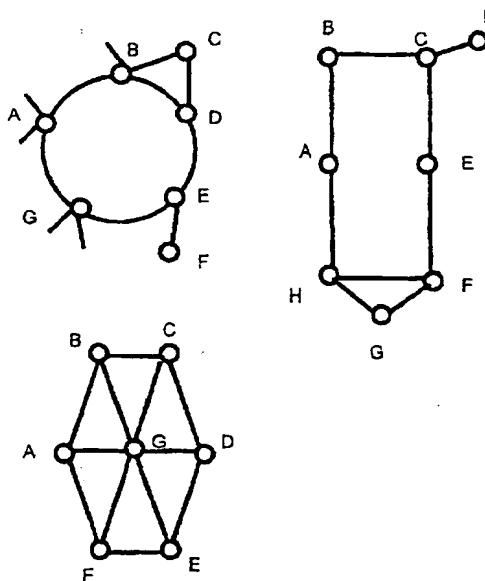
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(54) Title: SUPERVISORY CHANNEL IN AN OPTICAL NETWORK SYSTEM



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(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to an optical network element for use in a node of an optical network including a plurality of nodes which are interconnected so as to be capable of carrying traffic between selected nodes, comprising a local network management system including means for building up a supervisory connection between the network element and at least a network element of a further node of the optical network. The invention is characterized in that the local network management system is installed to support an arbitrary network topology and to build up a survivable supervisory connection to at least one predetermined other node of the network so as the network element could be integrated in an optical network with arbitrary topology.